DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of Proposal:	The proposal is for a new General Permit for Biosolids Management (general permit) to replace the current general permit that will expire on June 5, 2010. The general permit will be used as the primary means of permitting the biosolids management activities of the 379 facilities subject to the state biosolids management program. The state biosolids program regulates biosolids (including septage) applied to the land, biosolids sold or given away in a bag or other container, biosolids being stored, biosolids transferred from one facility to another, and sewage sludge disposed in a municipal solid waste landfill.
Proponent:	Washington State Department of Ecology Mailing Address: PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 Physical Address: 300 Desmond DR SE, Lacey, WA 98503
Location of Proposal:	The general permit is applicable within the boundaries of the State of Washington, including state and federal lands. It does not apply to lands within the boundaries of Indian reservations or lands outside of Indian reservations that are held in trust by the federal government for a tribe.
Lead Agency:	Washington State Department of Ecology

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed Environmental Checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this DNS.

☐ This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

☒ This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 30 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted in writing by: June 22, 2010.

Responsible Official: Laurie G. Davies

Position/Title: Program Manager, Waste 2 Resources Program

Date of Issuance: May 18, 2010 Signature: Laurie G. Davies

Please send comments to:

Daniel Thompson
State Biosolids Coordinator
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Email: Daniel.Thompson@ecy.wa.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring the preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or to provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for non-project proposals:

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For non-project actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

   Issuance of a new General Permit for Biosolids Management (GP). A draft of the proposed GP may be found at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/biosolids/GeneralPermit.html.

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Ecology

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person

Daniel Thompson
State Biosolids Coordinator
Washington State Department of Ecology
Waste 2 Resources Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-6108
Email: Daniel.Thompson@ecy.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 4, 2010.

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The proposal is for a new GP to replace the current GP that will expire on June 5, 2010. Following a threshold determination on this proposal, fulfillment of public notice requirements, completion of the public comment period, and fulfillment of public hearing requirements, a final proposed GP will be prepared and issued. The final proposed GP will become effective 30 days after notice of the final version has been published in the State Register. Ecology anticipates completing the process by September 1, 2010.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

While we don't have plans to change the GP, it is possible that some change to it may become necessary. The GP will be in effect for 5 years following its effective date. During this time, as new information is collected or if state or federal rules for biosolids management are amended, it may become necessary to amend the GP. Chapter 173-308 WAC (biosolids rule) contains provisions for making such revisions to a GP. During the effective period of the GP, if it becomes necessary to amend it, any additional SEPA and public notice requirements will be met at that time.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

An Environmental Checklist was completed during the development of the original biosolids rule, and a DNS was issued by Ecology on December 10, 1993.

An Environmental Checklist was completed for the first biosolids general permit, and a DNS was issued by Ecology on January 2, 1998.

An Environmental Checklist was completed for the current biosolids general permit, and a DNS was issued by Ecology on February 1, 2005.

An Environmental Checklist was completed for the current biosolids rule, and a DNS was issued by Ecology on January 16, 2007.

In addition, all facilities in the state subject to the proposed GP will be required to apply for coverage under the permit and to separately meet their respective SEPA requirements. Submitting a complete permit application package that includes all required plans (including land application plans), meeting all SEPA requirements, and meeting all public notice requirements will be required for all facilities subject to the proposed GP prior to receiving coverage under it.

Numerous documents addressing the management of biosolids exist. Ecology has authored some of these and funded others. Ecology's biosolids website has links to several guidance documents at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/biosolids/guidelines.html.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: The proposal is not for a specific property. All facilities applying for coverage under the proposed GP will be required to get approval from Ecology and, sometimes, a local agency for management of nonexceptional quality biosolids at a specific property. ("Nonexceptional quality" biosolids are biosolids that do not meet the "exceptional quality" standards because of one or more of the following: they did not meet the Class A pathogen standards in WAC 173-308-170; they did not meet the WAC 173-308-160 Table 3 limits for one or more pollutants; they have not met one of the vector attraction reduction standards in WAC 173-308-180.)

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Issuance of a threshold determination by the SEPA lead agency (Ecology).

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposal is for the issuance of a new GP. The current GP expires on June 5, 2010. The proposed GP is consistent with the current biosolids rule. The proposed GP does not impose any new requirements beyond those in the biosolids rule, the current GP, or federal biosolids rules/laws.

The state program regulates biosolids (including septage) applied to the land for beneficial uses, biosolids being stored, biosolids transferred from one facility to another, and sewage sludge disposed in a municipal solid waste landfill.

Upon issuance of the proposed GP, all facilities producing and/or managing biosolids will be required to submit an application for coverage under the GP.

As part of the permitting process, facilities will be responsible for submitting an application for coverage under the proposed GP that includes land application plans and other plans. The land application plans will contain information specific to proposed uses and the size of the project and

site. Both the permit application process and the land application plans are at some point subject to meeting SEPA requirements and public notice requirements.

12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any applications related to this checklist.

The proposed GP will be applicable within the boundaries of the State of Washington, including state and federal lands and facilities. The proposed GP does not apply to lands within the boundaries of Indian reservations or lands outside of Indian reservations that are held in trust by the federal government for a tribe.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

NOTE: The proposal is not for a specific site. It is for a GP that will eventually cover specific sites for which the proponent will meet their respective SEPA requirements prior to being allowed to land apply nonexceptional quality biosolids. Most of the responses below are not applicable to this proposal. However, where deemed appropriate, some information is provided on biosolids, generally, or the state biosolids program or proposed GP, specifically.

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (check or circle one):

☐flat, ☐rolling, ☐hilly, ☐steep slopes or ☐mountains. Other: _____

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: Generally biosolids applications are limited by slope and the solids content of the specific material (liquid or dewatered). Generally, a steeper slope is allowed for dewatered biosolids products than for liquid biosolids products due to the differences in runoff potential.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Not applicable to this proposal.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Not applicable to this proposal.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: Biosolids applications tend to reduce the potential for both wind and water erosion by increasing the water holding capacity of course-textured soils, by increasing water infiltration in fine-textured soils, by improving soil aggregation, and by enhancing root and general plant growth.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Not applicable to this proposal.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: The biosolids rule and the proposed GP require buffers to surface water bodies when biosolids are applied. The minimum required buffers range from 33' for Class B biosolids to 100' for septage. Many facilities provide for a significantly greater buffer to surface water bodies than those required by rule or by the proposed GP. Additionally, when issuing final coverage, Ecology frequently requires a larger buffer to surface water bodies than those required by rule or by the proposed GP.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Not applicable to this proposal.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill material.

Not applicable to this proposal.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable to this proposal.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Not applicable to this proposal.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: Biosolids are not a waste material. RCW 70.95J.005 declares biosolids as a beneficial commodity, and the state biosolids program is required to maximize beneficial use of the material. Moreover, biosolids may not be discharged to surface waters.

b. Ground:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable to this proposal.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: As discussed above in 3.a.6, biosolids are not a waste material. In land application projects, biosolids will either be applied to the soil surface and left in-place, applied to the soil surface followed by incorporation into the soil, or directly injected into the soil. All land application of biosolids will be done for the purposes of a beneficial use – generally to improve on-site soils for the enhancement of vegetative production.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

2) Could waste material enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: As discussed above in 3.a.6, biosolids are not a waste material and may not be allowed to enter surface waters. Additionally, given the required buffers to surface waters described above in 3.a.1, the general stability of biosolids once it's on the ground, and the typical limits on the steepness of slopes where biosolids may be applied, it is highly unlikely that biosolids will enter surface waters through runoff. With respect to groundwater, biosolids products are generally not allowed to be land applied when the water table is less than 3 feet below the soil surface, thus biosolids will not enter groundwaters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

Not applicable to this proposal.

deciduous trees: ☐alder, ☐maple, ☐aspen, ☐other: _____

evergreen trees: ☐fir, ☐cedar, ☐pine, ☐other: _____

☐ shrubs

☐ grasses

☐ pasture

☐ crops or grains

wet soil plants: ☐cattail, ☐buttercup, ☐bulrush, ☐skunk cabbage, ☐other: _____

water plants: ☐water lily, ☐eelgrass, ☐milfoil, ☐other: _____

other types of vegetation: _____

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: Biosolids applications have frequently been shown to significantly enhance the productivity of target species.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: In accordance with WAC 173-308-191, biosolids may not be applied to the land if they are likely to adversely affect a threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat as listed under Title 232 WAC or Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

5. Animals

a. Check or circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Not applicable to this proposal.

birds: ☐hawk, ☐heron, ☐eagle, ☐songbirds, other: _____

mammals: ☐deer, ☐bear, ☐elk, ☐beaver, other: _____

fish: ☐bass, ☐salmon, ☐trout, ☐herring, ☐shellfish, other: _____

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: In accordance with WAC 173-308-191, biosolids may not be applied to the land if they are likely to adversely affect a threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat as listed under Title 232 WAC or Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Not applicable to this proposal.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: Biosolids may contain some contaminants that could pose an environmental health hazard if present in high enough concentrations and if not properly managed.

1) Describe any emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable to this proposal.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: To ensure that biosolids do not pose an environmental health hazard, biosolids products have to meet certain quality standards defined in Chapter 173-308 WAC. In addition, biosolids must be applied at an agronomic rate except in certain, well-defined situations. The requirement that all biosolids products be applied at an agronomic rate minimizes the overall input of pollutants to any land application site. Additionally, the organic matter in biosolids and some inorganic compounds in biosolids tend to strongly bind pollutants of concern (for example cadmium, nickel, mercury) such that they are not bio-available.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Not applicable to this proposal.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Not applicable to this proposal.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: The majority of biosolids land application projects include the application of biosolids to agricultural land.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable to this proposal.

d. Will any structures be demolished? if so, what?

Not applicable to this proposal.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Not applicable to this proposal.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Not applicable to this proposal.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable to this proposal.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify

Not applicable to this proposal.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable to this proposal.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable to this proposal.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

11. Light and Glare

a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable to this proposal.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans if any.

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Not applicable to this proposal.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Not applicable to this proposal.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Not applicable to this proposal.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Not applicable to this proposal.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal.

NOTE: The proposed GP contains a requirement that all applicable facilities submit a "Spill Prevention/Response Plan" as part of their permit application package. This requirement seeks to minimize the potential for a biosolids spill during transportation and to maximize the effectiveness of clean-up if a spill occurs.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable to this proposal.

16. Utilities

a. Check or circle utilities currently available at the site:

Not applicable to this proposal.

☐electricity, ☐natural gas, ☐water, ☐refuse service, ☐telephone, ☐sanitary sewer, ☐ septic system, ☐other: _____

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Not applicable to this proposal.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Laurie G. Davies

Date Submitted: May 18, 2010

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS (do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Increase Discharges to Water: The proposed GP is not expected to result in an increase in discharges to water. Discharges of biosolids to water is explicitly prohibited under the proposed GP. In addition, the proposed GP contains a requirement for a minimum buffer of 33' to surface waters at biosolids application sites (100' at sites where septage is applied) and 100' from wells. These buffers are typically much greater in practice. In addition, the proposed GP requires applications of biosolids at an agronomic rate except in certain, well-defined situations; this ensures no discharge to ground water.

Increase Emissions to the Air: The proposed GP is not expected to increase emissions to the air. Biosolids projects currently in-place or proposed are expected to continue or be implemented. During the effective period of the proposed GP some minor growth in the mass of biosolids managed can be expected to occur due to population growth, but the overall impact on emissions to the air is expected to remain generally the same.

Increase Production, Storage, or Release of Toxic or Hazardous Substances: The proposed GP is not expected to increase the production, storage or release of potentially toxic or hazardous substances. Biosolids projects currently in-place or proposed are expected to continue or be implemented. During the effective period of the proposed GP some minor growth in the mass of biosolids managed can be expected to occur due to population growth, but the overall impact on the production, storage, or release of potentially toxic hazardous substances is expected to remain generally the same. Moreover, it is anticipated that through pretreatment programs and through Ecology's persistent, bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs) initiative program, the concentration of potentially toxic or hazardous substances in biosolids should decrease.

Increase Production of Noise: The proposed GP is not expected to increase the production of noise. Biosolids projects currently in-place or proposed are expected to continue or be implemented. During the effective period of the proposed GP some minor growth in the mass of biosolids managed can be expected to occur due to population growth, but the overall impact on the production of noise is expected to remain generally the same.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

No such measures are proposed, as no increases are expected.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Plants: The proposed GP is not expected to adversely affect plants. Biosolids applied to the land generally have a very positive impact on plants by providing essential nutrients and improving soil physical properties. In fact, typically the primary reason that biosolids are land-applied is for use as a soil amendment to improve target vegetation.

Animals: The proposed GP is not expected to adversely affect animals. Biosolids applied to the land commonly have a positive impact on animals by providing a higher quality, more abundant food source (for wildlife projects) and a higher quality feed source (for domestic animals).

Fish: The proposed GP is not expected to adversely affect fish. Biosolids applications may have a positive impact on fish by reducing erosion of soils and by reducing the use of inorganic fertilizers which tend to have highly mobile forms of nutrients that can eventually end up in waters of the state.

Marine Life: The proposed GP is not expected to adversely affect marine life. Biosolids applications may have a positive impact on marine life for the reasons described above for fish.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

No such measures are proposed, as the proposed GP is not expected to have an adverse impact on any of the above organisms.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposed GP is not expected to adversely impact energy or natural resources. The use of biosolids can have a positive impact on energy by reducing the need to produce inorganic fertilizer products, the production of which is generally very energy intensive. Additionally, some biosolids are currently being used to grow oil-producing crops. The oils produced are subsequently used to produce bio-diesel. The bio-diesel can then be used as vehicle fuel.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

No such measures are proposed, as the proposed GP is not expected to deplete energy or natural resources.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Parks: Potentially biosolids could be applied to parks. In fact, at least one very successful project using biosolids at a park has been completed in the past (Discovery Park in Seattle). Any such proposals would be evaluated in the site approval process. This process requires that SEPA and public notice requirements be met.

Wilderness: The proposed GP is unlikely to impact any designated Wilderness Areas in any manner, as most biosolids projects involve mechanical equipment, and such equipment is prohibited in designated Wilderness Areas.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: The proposed GP is unlikely to impact any Wild and Scenic Rivers, as biosolids are prohibited from being discharged to surface waters, and certain buffers from surface waters are required (see D.1, above).

Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat: In accordance with WAC 173-308-191, biosolids may not be applied to the land if they are likely to adversely affect a threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat as listed under Title 232 WAC or Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.

Historic or Cultural Sites: It is highly unlikely that biosolids will be applied to any historic or cultural sites. Any such proposals would be evaluated in the site approval process. This process requires that SEPA and public notice requirements be met.

Wetlands: The proposed GP explicitly prohibits the application of nonexceptional quality biosolids to wetlands unless approved as a special permit condition. Any such proposals would be evaluated in the site approval process. This process requires that SEPA and public notice requirements be met.

Floodplains: Biosolids may potentially be applied in a floodplain. If so, the proponent typically has to meet certain requirements such as to apply only during the dry part of the year when the potential for a rainfall event is low. Any such specific proposals would be evaluated in the site approval process. This process requires that SEPA and public notice requirements be met.

Prime Farmlands: Biosolids products are likely to be applied to prime farmlands to enhance vegetative production. This is considered to be a positive impact.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

No such measures are proposed, as the proposed GP is not expected to adversely affect any of the above listed areas.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Shorelines: The proposed GP is not expected to impact shorelines. The proposed GP requires certain buffers from surface waters as discussed in D.1, above. Additionally, any such specific proposals would be evaluated in the site approval process. This process requires that SEPA and public notice requirements be met.

Land Use: All biosolids projects (whether land application, composting, or mixing), are required to go through an approval process. This process requires that SEPA and public notice requirements be met. Any issues of incompatibility with existing land use plans will be addressed during the approval process.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Shorelines: No such measures are proposed, as the proposed GP is not expected to adversely impact shorelines.

Land Use: If a proposal raises any issues of incompatibility with existing land use plans, these will be addressed during the approval process.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Increase Demands on Transportation: The proposed GP is not expected to increase demands on transportation. Biosolids projects currently in-place or proposed are expected to continue or be implemented. During the effective period of the proposed GP some minor growth in the mass of biosolids managed can be expected to occur due to population growth, but the overall demand on transportation is expected to remain generally the same.

Increase Demands on Public Services and Utilities: The proposed GP is not expected to increase demands on public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

No such measures are proposed, as the proposed GP is not expected to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The biosolids rule explicitly requires that all biosolids facilities and sites where biosolids are applied to the land comply with other applicable federal, state, and local laws including zoning and land use requirements.